

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 07251 111701Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
ACDA-07 AID-05 PC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 CCO-00 /073 W
-----111725Z 127357 /44

O 111724Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0519

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07251

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG

SUBJ: ZAIRE - BORDER ATTACK FROM ANGOLA

REF: STATE 53978

1. ON MARCH 11 AMB SEELYE AND EMBOFFS DISCUSSED ZAIRE SITUATION IN LINE WITH REFTEL WITH QUAI DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA GUY GEORGY. GEORGY SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD NO INFORMATION BEYOND THAT WHICH WE PROVIDED ON DETAILS OF INVASION FROM ANGOLA. MOBUTU HAD CALLED IN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA TO APPRISE HIM OF THE KATANGAN INCURSION AND ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO INFORM GISCARD. MOBUTU MADE NO DIRECT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BUT ASKED THAT THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
 2. WITHOUT DETAILING ANY SPECIFIC ACTION THAT THE WEST SHOULD TAKE, GEORGY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING ZAIRE FROM DISINTEGRATING. HE SAID THAT MOBUTU HAS AT LEAST MANAGED TO HOLD THE COUNTRY TOGETHER AND THAT WERE HE TO LEAVE THE SCENE, ZAIRE WOULD FALL INTO ANARCHY WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL OF AFRICA.
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WERE MOBUTU TO ASK THE FRENCH FOR AID, GEORGY SAID WITH CONVICTION, THE FRENCH WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY.

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE STATE OF FRENCH MATERIEL IN ZAIRE, THE FRENCH SAID THEY THOUGHT THAT THREE OF THE SIX MIRAGES ARE FLIGHTWORTHY AND THAT MOST OF THE

PANHARDS ARE OPERABLE. HOWEVER, THEY HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT MOST OF THE LATTER WERE IN AREAS FAR REMOVED FROM SHABA. GEORGY'S DEPUTY REACTED WITH INTEREST WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT A MIRAGE FLY-BY IN SHABA MIGHT HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH WOULD, IN FACT, BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY REQUEST FROM MOBUTU, INCLUDING PSYCHOLOGICAL OVERFLIGHTS.
RUSH

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